News-item "India may lose contraceptive race to US"

525. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "India may lose contraceptive race to US", which appeared in the Asian Age, dated the 22nd September, 2002;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problems highlighted in the news-item relating to the slow pace and the irrational decision-making process in the country in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) the contents of the article are not factually correct. Following successful completion of Phase-I and Phase-II studies, a limited Phase-III studies are under evaluation by Indian Council of Medical Research. Further studies can only be considered after successful outcome of the Phase-III study.

The Government of India has set up a Monitoring Committee consisting of eminent scientists to review and monitor the trial.

Incidents of Malaria and Brain Fever

526. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing incidents of Malaria and brain fever in some States and particularly in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken to eradicate Malaria in those States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) According to the reports received from the State Health Authorities, the total incidence of malaria remained between 2-3 million annually in the country for over a decade. 4.83 lakhs cases of malaria were reported in the State of Orissa in 1999, 5.09 lakhs cases in 2000 and 4.42 lakhs (provisional)